

# THE BULLETIN

Monthly News from ENERGY STAR Buildings<sup>SM</sup> and Green Lights<sup>®</sup>

December 10, 1999



## Web Site Information

ENERGY STAR Buildings<sup>SM</sup>  
and Green Lights<sup>®</sup>  
[www.epa.gov/buildings](http://www.epa.gov/buildings)

ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Label  
for Buildings  
[www.epa.gov/buildinglabel](http://www.epa.gov/buildinglabel)

Ally Services and Products  
(ASAP) Directory  
[www.epa.gov/asap](http://www.epa.gov/asap)

## Tracking Energy Use Can Save You Money

Do you know where your organization's energy dollars are being spent? While some energy users keep a careful eye on their utility bills and conduct detailed analyses of their energy consumption, many organizations do not have a system in place to track this data.

Energy consumption data exists for all organizations on some level – at the very least, in the form of utility bills. Often utility bills end up at the accounting office, never having been viewed or analyzed by energy managers for accuracy or anomalies in energy use. By tracking and reviewing energy consumption data, energy managers can use this valuable information to save organizations substantial amounts of energy and money.

### Tracking Energy Data

Methods for tracking energy data vary from simple spreadsheets to complex energy tracking and analysis software. Whatever method is used to track utility bills, the result can give end-users a better handle on their energy consumption and help identify cost-reduction opportunities. Keep in mind that a strategy that works for one organization may prove to be cost-prohibitive for another. When determining how and what type of data you will track and record, consider the following factors:

- **Number of facilities and utility accounts**

The more facilities you occupy, the more information you will need to collect and track. Energy software may be a good option for large multi-facility organizations, while

single building and smaller multi-facility organizations can often effectively track their energy using less sophisticated (and less expensive) options, such as internally-developed tracking mechanisms.

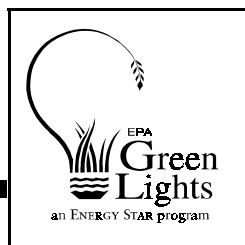
- **Size and nature of facilities**

The size of a facility, as well as its usage, can affect the way you track energy within a facility. For example, sub-metering within an industrial facility allows you to isolate the energy usage of specific energy-intensive processes to identify potential areas for savings. Similarly, the manager of a multi-tenant facility can separate energy usage by tenant. By monitoring sub-meters, managers gain a better understanding of how and where energy is being used and can identify targets for energy-savings opportunities. In other cases, the cost to install sub-meters may outweigh the benefits they provide.

### Energy Tracking Software

A variety of software packages and vendors exist in the market that can help organizations track their utility data. Features vary by each software package, but their goals remain the same: they are designed to help organize, track, analyze, and report energy use and cost data.

Energy tracking software can be a powerful tool in helping manage energy use. These software packages offer the flexibility to present data in various ways. Users may compare current energy use with historical data for an individual facility or make comparisons between similar types of facilities. Utility tracking software packages offer the convenience of having energy data



## New Allies

### EPA would like to congratulate the following Allies who have recently joined ENERGY STAR Buildings:

Airtron Inc.  
Control Technologies Inc.  
Electric City of California  
Environmental Resources Trust Inc.  
Forest Grove Light & Power  
GMR Electric, Inc.  
Mechanical Services of Orlando, Inc.  
Powersource Enterprises  
Resource Lighting  
Sun Tunnel Systems, Inc.  
Universal Fixture Manufacturing Co., Inc.

## New Partners

### EPA would like to congratulate the following Partners who have recently joined ENERGY STAR Buildings:

Bellin Health System  
Cisco Systems  
Corpus Christi Independent School District  
Detroit Public Schools  
Joseph A. Bank Clothiers Inc.  
SC Johnson & Son, Inc.  
State University of New York at Farmingdale  
The Home Depot  
Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Columbus

centrally located and available with a few keystrokes.

Features of these software packages will vary, but may include:

- Custom and pre-defined graphs and reports
- Weather data and corrections
- Energy conversions
- Data import and export capability
- Ability to interface with financial accounting software
- Notification of inconsistencies in data

### Tips for Maximizing Savings with Energy Consumption Reports

Regardless of whether you track energy use in-house or by outsourcing; use energy tracking software or create your own tracking mechanisms; or have one or several facilities, you must summarize your data into a workable format for analysis. The following suggestions will help you use your energy consumption data to save money.

- Benchmark your facilities. A facility manager can better understand the performance of his or her facility by benchmarking a facility's energy consumption data against its own historical data, data from other facilities within the organization, and industry averages.
- Look for errors in utility bills. Are you being over-billed? Are you on the correct rate schedule? Faulty meters or simple errors could be costing you more than you should be paying for your energy.
- Identify opportunities for upgrades or operational changes. Determine which facilities within your organization appear to be operating with higher energy use than others. Conduct facility audits, investigate operational practices and find areas where you can improve on

efficiency. In larger facilities, sub-metering can identify areas of greater energy usage and help you identify opportunities for improved efficiency.

- Track energy-efficiency projects. Use your energy data as a way to measure energy use and cost savings attributed to energy-efficiency projects and conduct a cost/benefit analysis of upgrades.
- Improve forecasting of energy budgets. Use historical data to forecast energy budgets with greater accuracy.
- Prepare for deregulation. Aggregated load and demand profiles along with accurate energy-consumption data will improve your position in negotiating with energy providers.
- Promote your accomplishments. Share your energy savings with upper management to gain recognition for your department as well as funding for future upgrades.

### How Do You Measure Up?

You can use your energy consumption data to benchmark your building's energy performance against all similar-use buildings in the United States, using the ENERGY STAR® Benchmarking Tool at [www.epa.gov/buildings/label](http://www.epa.gov/buildings/label). This online performance measurement tool evaluates your building's performance using data on your building's physical attributes, operating characteristics, and monthly energy consumption. The tool offers valuable insight into the efficiency of your facility, relative to similar space types. Top performing buildings receive the ENERGY STAR Label for Buildings and are recognized through the ENERGY STAR Registry. The tool is currently available for office buildings with other space types coming soon in 2000.

## Ask the Energy Expert

### Have a Question?

Get your maintenance, financing, communications, and Partnership questions answered by e-mailing Sol Salinas, *The Bulletin* Editor, at [salinas.sol@epa.gov](mailto:salinas.sol@epa.gov). Answers to technical questions and other technical tips are also available on the Ally Services and Products (ASAP) Directory on the Web at: [www.epa.gov/asap](http://www.epa.gov/asap).

### The Bulletin Subscription Information

*The Bulletin* is distributed on the first Monday of every month to more than 6,000 ENERGY STAR Buildings and Green Lights participants and friends.

To add or remove your name from the fax distribution list, please call the toll-free Hotline at: **1-888-STAR-YES**.

To receive *The Bulletin* electronically, please send an email to: "listserver@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov" and in the message body type in the following:

subscribe energystar your name

You also may remove your name by typing:

unsubscribe energystar

## We Would Like Your Input

As a part of our ongoing effort to enhance the quality of our communication with ENERGY STAR Buildings Partners, we are considering combining the monthly *Bulletin* and the quarterly *Update* into one quarterly newsletter. Before we make that transition, however, we would appreciate your feedback on the *Bulletin*'s value and effectiveness. Please take a moment to answer the following questions and fax this page back to John Sullivan at (202) 862-1144.

How often do you read the *Bulletin*?

☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often ☐ Always

Would you be satisfied having the *Bulletin* incorporated into a quarterly newsletter, rather than having it distributed on a monthly basis as it is now? (check one)

- ☐ I would like to receive quarterly newsletter including the *Bulletin*.  
☐ I prefer to continue receiving monthly *Bulletin* newsletters.  
☐ I do not want to receive either newsletter.

How effective is the *Bulletin* as a source of valuable information?

☐ Very Effective ☐ Somewhat Effective ☐ Ineffective

Do you have any recommendations about how to improve the *Bulletin*?

To make reading the *Bulletin* even easier, we also will be moving toward an electronic distribution system via email and the Web. This will reduce the use of paper and further contribute to EPA's goals of environmental protection.

If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of the *Bulletin*, please fill out the form below and fax this page back to John Sullivan at (202) 862-1144 or email your information to [jsullivan@icfconsulting.com](mailto:jsullivan@icfconsulting.com).

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If you have any questions, please call John Sullivan, ICF Consulting at (202) 862-2962. Thank you for your help!